



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

Date: January 29, 2007

Subject: Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rule Amendments

Attachment: Maine APA Notice of Rule-making

The Ethics Commission is soliciting comments on proposed changes to the Commission's Rules. You may view the proposed changes on the Commission's website, www.maine.gov/ethics, or you may call us to obtain a printed copy by mail.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 14, at 9:00 a.m. at which you are invited to comment on the changes to the forms or the rules. Written and e-mailed comments are also welcome. The deadline for written and e-mailed comments is 5:00 p.m. on February 28. The Commission will make any changes at its March meeting (date to be determined).

The changes relating to the Maine Clean Election Act would be considered major substantive, and the Commission will submit any major substantive amendments to the Legislature for its consideration following the Commission's March meeting.

If you have any questions, please telephone me or Paul Lavin, Assistant Director, at 287-4179. Please send e-mail comments to Paul.Lavin@Maine.gov. Thank you for your consideration of the proposed amendments.

OFFICE LOCATED AT: 242 STATE STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE
WEBSITE: WWW.MAINE.GOV/ETHICS

PHONE: (207) 287-4179

FAX: (207) 287-6775

NOTICE OF RULE-MAKING

94-270 - Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
RULE TITLE OR SUBJECT: Ch. 1, Procedures Ch. 3, Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions
PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: 2007-P22, P23
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments would: remove specific inconsistencies between the statutes and rules; remove the requirement that oral or insufficient written reports of violations be placed on the Commission's agenda; allow the staff to take testimony under oath pursuant to a subpoena issued by the Commission; clarify when a contribution is deemed to be received; specify a candidate's reporting requirements for expenditures made by consultants and for reimbursements for expenditures made with a credit card or personal funds; clarify the period of time during which the Commission is prohibited from discussing matters before it; confirm that qualifying contributions received more than five days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Intent are not valid; change the content of the receipt and acknowledgement form; clarify when proof of voter registration verification must be received by the Commission; establish the procedure by which a candidate would request certification; clarify the procedure for calculating matching funds; allow the Commission to require the return of Maine Clean Election Act funds for unsupported expenditures; establish a new procedure for vehicle travel reimbursement, including maintaining a travel log; and allow gubernatorial candidates to reserve certain amounts of Maine Clean Election Act funds to defray expenses associated with an audit by the Commission. A copy of the proposed rule amendments is available on the Ethics Commission's website - www.maine.gov/ethics or by calling (207) 287-4179. **THIS RULE WILL NOT HAVE A FISCAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES**
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 MRSA §1003; 21-A MRSA §1126
PUBLIC HEARING: Wednesday, February 14, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Ethics Commission Office, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333.
DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2007
AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director, Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine
TELEPHONE: (207) 287-4179